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the royal supremacy; and it naturally aroused the hostility not only of those who felt its power like the Puritans and Roman Catholics, but of the judges of the common law, who looked upon the Law and not the royal will as the ultimate fountain of justice. The author gives a careful account of the attack of these common-law judges, especially of Sir Edward Coke, upon the High Commission. It survived, however, and though somewhat curtailed in the range of its jurisdiction, was so increased in membership, and was therefore so enabled to carry on its work in various parts of the kingdom that it was never more active than in its last days, especially under Archbishop Laud.

The author brings no little evidence to show that the High Commission was, on the whole, popular with litigants, was quite as prompt as any court of the kingdom, and was no more severe than the common-law courts, if as rigorous as they. Granted that Puritan and Roman Catholic nonconformists were to be suppressed, it did its work, as a whole, with no greater harshness than other agencies would have done; and these suppressions were only a fraction of its business. Yet, the author points out, while there was no essential change in procedure, the increase and extension of its activity in its last years could but intensify Puritan hostility to it, and that, combined with the deep-rooted antipathy of the supporters of the sole jurisdiction of the common-law courts, swept it out of existence in 1641.

The author has discussed his difficult theme impartially and his judgments seem warranted by the evidence which he is able to present.

WILLISTON WALKER.

A History of England from the Defeat of the Armada to the Death of Elizabeth. With an Account of English Institutions during the later Sixteenth and the Early Seventeenth Centuries. By EDWARD P. CHEYNEY, Professor of European History, University of Pennsylvania. Volume I. (New York, London, Bombay, and Calcutta: Longmans, Green, and Company. 1914. Pp. x, 560.)

It is both difficult and tantalizing to review the first installment of any two-volume work, without having any opportunity to become acquainted with the contents of the second. This is, of course, particularly true when the arrangement of the work in question is topical rather than chronological; and it is perhaps truest of all when the book deals with such a period as the last fifteen years of the reign of Queen Elizabeth. For so complex and intricate are the events, so numerous and versatile the actors, so bewilderingly various the currents and cross-currents of religious and political opinion, that one hesitates long before pronouncing judgment on any isolated portion of a work which is concerned with this field. One needs to see the whole book before reaching a verdict, for that verdict, in the last analysis, must be pri-

marily based on the reviewer's opinion of the author's selection of the topics to be treated, and of the relative importance he has assigned to each.

There can be no doubt of the attractiveness of the period that Professor Cheyney has chosen, or of the need for a solid and substantial work upon it. It has been for the last two or three decades one of the notoriously "unwritten" periods of modern English history, comparable, in this respect, to the reign of Charles II. Froude stops in 1588; Gardiner begins in 1603; the intervening gap has furnished abundant material for the specialist and writer of monographs; but it has never before been treated as a whole on a scale approaching that of the present work. Professor Cheyney has certainly had a splendid opportunity, and he has made admirable use of it.

The volume which lies before us falls into four parts, entitled respectively, Royal Administration, Military Affairs, 1588-1595, Exploration and Commerce, 1551-1603, and Violence on the Sea. The first comprises eight chapters—four of which give an admirable picture of the queen, her chief councillors, her courtiers, and her household, while the rest consist of careful and scholarly descriptions of the Privy Council, Star Chamber, and central courts. There can be no question of the solidity and thoroughness of the work on which these pages rest; and the majority of Professor Cheyney's readers will doubtless be grateful for the fact that the emphasis is laid rather on the actual workings of the institutions described than on the more thorny topics of origin, constitutionality, and development. One would have welcomed a few words on the evolution of the Court of Exchequer Chamber during this period, but possibly this topic has been reserved (as Parliament and Local Administration obviously have been) for consideration in the second volume.

Part II., on Military Affairs, tells of the expedition against Portugal in 1589, and the ensuing campaigns in Brittany, Normandy, and the Netherlands down to the year 1595. The story is told simply, straightforwardly, but with great wealth of detail. The chapter on the Portuguese expedition is one of the best in the whole book; the subject has not been treated before with the fullness which it deserves. Professor Cheyney shows conclusively that Elizabeth's aversion to open aggressive warfare persisted long after the year of the Armada, when she is supposed, by many authors, to have been converted to the bolder views of the mass of the people. Indeed the failure of the expedition of 1589 may be principally ascribed to the halting policy of the queen, "who refused to let her soldiers and sailors have artillery, who stinted them of food, who gave them unwise and ambiguous instructions, who subjected them to carping criticism, who cared more that Essex was out of her sight than that 15,000 of her subjects and their commanders were sailing away to destroy a fleet and capture a kingdom with only two weeks' supplies aboard". The Muscovy and Eastland companies, the Mediter-

anean, African, and East Indian trade, and the early colonizing expeditions to the coast of North America are the chief topics considered in part III., while the long, dragging, semi-piratical naval conflict with Spain, not yet acknowledged by either side to be the equivalent of a regular condition of war, which grew out of these early ventures of English merchants and seamen, forms the subject of part IV. Professor Cheyney has ransacked the pages of Hakluyt, of the Spanish and Colonial *Calendars*, and of the *Acts of the Privy Council* for fresh information, and his conclusions are supported by a formidable array of French and German monographs and articles in learned periodicals. He traces, carefully and convincingly, the processes by which there was gradually and informally evolved "a certain kind of external dominion" based primarily on trade, "a forerunner of the empire whose foundations were to be laid by conquest and colonization during the next century". Spain's recent annexation of Portugal made her a bar to English expansion to the East as well as to the westward; the death struggle between the two nations, probably ultimately inevitable any way, because of internal affairs and the situation in the Netherlands, was rendered certain and immediate by this clash of empires. But it was eminently characteristic both of Philip and Elizabeth, that they would not face the facts, acknowledge that war had come, or make any decisive effort that would lead to a culmination of the struggle or compel a settlement. The policy of "watchful waiting" has had distinguished advocates in the past.

The prevailing impression created by the present volume is that of the best kind of soundness and historical honesty. Professor Cheyney has discovered nothing startlingly new; his style is not dramatic; he does not "work in colors". But it is perfectly obvious that he knows the printed sources (with the possible exception of a few of the Spanish ones) down to the ground, that he has mastered the secondary authorities of the period, and that he has made good use, particularly in the earlier part of his book, of manuscript material. Every statement is well backed up; there is no bluffing, and no bias. One might be tempted to characterize the book as solid rather than brilliant, save that such a verdict might possibly connote dullness, which would be quite unfair; on the contrary, it is distinctly interesting, and holds the reader's attention. There are some minor errors and inconsistencies of nomenclature, particularly in the index; but they can easily be corrected in a second edition, and it would profit nothing to enumerate them here. American historical scholarship has every reason to be proud of Professor Cheyney's work, which bids fair to remain for a long time the standard book on the period with which it deals.

ROGER B. MERRIMAN.